

County Audit

**Rhonda Hall, Court Clerk  
Cleveland County,  
Oklahoma**

For The Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2006



Office of the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector  
Jeff A. McMahan, CFE

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
STATUTORY REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

July 3, 2007

Rhonda Hall, Court Clerk  
Cleveland County Courthouse  
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the Cleveland County, Court Clerk, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. This engagement was conducted in accordance with 20 O.S. §1312. A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that there were not commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the Court Clerk.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during the conduct of our procedures.

The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector is committed to serve the public interest by providing independent oversight and to issue reports that serve as a management tool to the state to ensure a government which is accountable to the people of the State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMahen".

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
STATUTORY REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2006**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introductory Information ..... ii

Statutory Report of State Auditor and Inspector ..... 1

Court Fund Account Analysis ..... 3

Court Clerk Revolving Fund Analysis ..... 5

Schedule of Findings and Recommendations ..... 6

## **INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION**

The Court Clerk is elected by the qualified voters of the County for a term of four years.

The primary responsibilities of the Court Clerk are to record, file and maintain the proceedings of the District Court, and perform other duties as directed by the District Court. Other duties and responsibilities of the Court Clerk are as follows: collecting all required Court fees, issuing warrants, orders, writs, subpoenas, passports and certain licenses, maintaining dockets and financial records for the various divisions of the Court, maintaining an appropriation ledger to control and monitor Court Fund expenditures, disbursing District Court funds in accordance with Court instructions and state statutes, and reviewing Court Fund claims for proper supporting documentation before bringing the claims and vouchers to the Court Fund Board for approval.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

Rhonda Hall, Court Clerk  
Cleveland County Courthouse  
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Ms. Hall:

We have performed procedures for fiscal year 2006 activity of the Court Fund Account for the purpose of complying with 20 O.S. § 1312. We have also performed procedures for fiscal year 2006 activity of the Court Clerk Revolving Fund as created by 19 O.S. § 220.

- Test Court Fund vouchers to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, (2) was properly approved, (3) was properly classified, and (4) did not exceed appropriations.
- Test Court Clerk Revolving Fund vouchers to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, and (2) was properly approved.
- Test District Court vouchers to determine whether they were properly accounted for and test supporting documentation for disbursements to determine whether the disbursements were issued in accordance with Court instructions.
- Determine whether Court Fund activity and/or balances reconcile to the County Treasurer's records.
- Determine whether the Court Clerk Revolving activity and/or balances reconcile to the County Treasurer's records.
- Determine whether the District Court case balances reconcile to the County Treasurer's depository ledger.
- Test receipts issued to determine whether: (1) the correct fee was collected, and (2) the receipt was properly accounted for in the financial records.

All information included in the reconciliations, the Court Fund appropriation ledger, the Court Clerk Revolving Fund, the monthly reports, and the cash receipts journal is the representation of the Court Clerk.

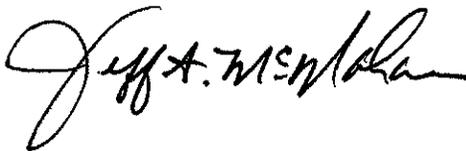
Our Court Clerk's engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any general-purpose financial statements of Cleveland County.

Based on the above reconciliations, tests, and procedures performed; the Court Clerk is collecting the correct fees and properly accounting for them; Court Fund vouchers were properly supported, approved, classified, and did not exceed appropriations; Court Clerk Revolving Fund expenditures were properly supported and approved; District Court vouchers were properly accounted for and issued in accordance with Court instructions; Court Fund activity and Court Clerk Revolving Fund financial records reconciled with the County Treasurer's records. With respect to the matter of reconciliation of District Court case balances to the County Treasurer's official depository records, our finding is included in the schedule of findings and recommendations.

We have prepared detailed analysis of the Court Fund Account and of the Court Clerk Revolving Fund, which are presented following this report.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Cleveland County Court Fund Board and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

June 27, 2007

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK**  
**CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**  
**COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS**  
**JUNE 30, 2006**

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Collections:	
Court fund fines, fees, and forfeitures	\$ 3,074,020
Interest earned on deposits	28,577
Cancelled vouchers	<u>1,295,917</u>
Total collections	<u>4,398,514</u>
Deductions:	
Lump sum budget categories:	
Juror expenses	101,272
Trial court attorneys	225,250
Appeals attorneys	500
Mental health attorneys	69,200
Guardianship fees	27,150
Physician fees	10,950
Transcripts - preliminary and trial	25,202
General office supplies	28,146
Forms and printing	12,783
Publications	5,043
Postage and freight	29,395
Microfilm supplies	913
Court reporter supplies	5,198
Gas, water, and electricity	24,674
General telephone expenses	16,863
Long-distance telephone expense	89
Other expenses	<u>7,213</u>
Total lump sum categories	<u>589,841</u>

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2006**

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Restricted budget categories:	
Renovation and remodeling	1,248,263
Maintenance of court area(s)	256
Security for court area(s)	40,888
Furniture and fixtures	45,275
Equipment purchases	52,799
Equipment rentals	3,183
Maintenance of equipment	35,151
OCIS services	109,312
Photocopy equipment rental	25,317
Part time bailiffs	8,251
Per-diem court reporters	4,275
Part time court clerk employees	538,223
Total restricted categories	<u>2,111,193</u>
Mandated budget categories:	
Law library	10,000
State judicial fund	<u>1,229,078</u>
Total mandated categories	<u>1,239,078</u>
Total deductions	<u>3,940,112</u>
Collections over (under) deductions	458,402
Beginning account balance July 1, 2005	<u>697,834</u>
Ending account balance June 30, 2006	<u>\$ 1,156,236</u>

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COURT CLERK REVOLVING FUND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2006**

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Beginning balance	\$ 216,844
Collections	122,048
Disbursements	<u>100,410</u>
Ending account balance	<u>\$ 238,482</u>

**RHONDA HALL, COURT CLERK  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
JUNE 30, 2006**

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**Finding 2006-1 – Reconciliations**

Criteria: Safeguarding controls are an aspect of internal control. Safeguarding controls relate to the prevention or timely detection of unauthorized transactions and unauthorized access to assets. Failure to perform tasks that are part of internal controls, such as reconciliations not prepared or not timely prepared, are deficiencies in internal control. Further, reconciliations should be performed on a monthly basis.

Condition: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), a state agency, previously maintained case information for eight counties in Oklahoma on a mainframe system. During the 1999 calendar year, data was converted from the old mainframe system to a client server computer system known as the Oklahoma Court Information System (OCIS).

Some financial data, historical data, and case balance records were incorrectly converted during the transfer of information to the OCIS. Consequently, a monthly reconciliation of the District Court case balances to the County Treasurer's official depository balance has not been performed since the conversion.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Court Clerk continue researching and correcting errors in the conversion of data and monitoring reporting errors in the OCIS. The ultimate goal being that the District Court Case Balance Summary will reconcile to the County Treasurer's official depository balance on hand at the end of each month.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: We concur with the State Auditor's findings. The Court Clerk is aware and is in the process of researching and correcting errors that were made in the conversion.